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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,548	04/12/2004	Marc Seghatol	1550.36US03	1792
7590	02/23/2007		EXAMINER	
Brad Pedersen Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A. 4800 IDS Center 80 South 8th Street Minneapolis, MN 55402-2100			BUTLER, PATRICK	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1732	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE		
3 MONTHS	02/23/2007	PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/822,548	SEGHATOL ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Patrick Butler	1732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 November 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,33 and 37 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,33 and 37 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1, 33, and 37 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,737,619 B2 in view of Gonser (US Patent No. 3,868,513).

With respect to Claims 1, 33, and 37, Claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,737,619 B2 teaches forming dental composites (part of a tooth; a hardened object; orthodontic element) from a resin matrix (curable polymer composition) and using a microwave energy source to polymerize the matrix (using a microwave source to apply microwave energy to harden said hardenable object).

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Claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,737,619 B2 does not teach a hand-held microwave source being employed in the method.

Gonser teaches using a hand-held energy source in-mouth to cure a resin (intra-orally harden) (col. 1, line 8-20).

It would be obvious to combine Gonser's method of using a hand-held energy source with the method of forming as taught by Claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,737,619 B2 in order to expedite the process by easily doing the work at the tooth.

Claims 1, 33, and 37 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,254,389 B1.

With respect to Claims 1, 33, and 37, Claim 10 of U.S. Patent No. 6,254,389 B1 teaches forming polymerized resin on a tooth (part of a tooth; a hardened object; orthodontic element) from a resin matrix (curable polymer composition) and using a hand-held microwave energy source intra-orally to polymerize the resin matrix (using a microwave source to apply microwave energy to harden said hardenable object).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

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Claims 1, 33, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Stangel et al (US Patent No. 6,605,051 B1).

Stangel teaches Claim 1 (See Stangel, Claim 1: preamble, (i), (i)(a), and (ii); col. 4, lines 36-40)).

Stangel teaches Claims 33 (See Stangel, Claim 3: preamble, (i), and (ii)).

Stangel teaches Claims 37 (See Stangel, Claim 4: preamble, (i), and (ii); and Claims 12 and 13).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 33, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Podszun (US Patent No. 5,147,903) in view of Nakazato (US Patent No. 4,873,269) and Stevens (US Patent No. 5,421,737).

With respect to Claims 1, 33, and 37, Podszun teaches using polymeric methacrylates to make or fill teeth (see col. 1, lines 8-20).

Podszun does not appear to expressly teach curing by hand-held microwave.

Nakazato teaches using microwave to cure methacrylate material (see Abstract; col. 2, lines 39-45).

Stevens teaches a method of safely applying microwave energy in-mouth with a hand-held tool (see Abstract; fig. 2; col. 1, lines 13-57).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Nakazato's microwave energy using Stevens's in-mouth energy applicator in the method as taught by Podszun because using Stevens safe apparatus in-mouth allows for polymerization within a short time without causing porosity, limited deformation, and improved size accuracy (see Nakazato, col. 2, lines 39-62) while easily doing the work at the tooth.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 22 November 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues with respect to the 35 USC 103 rejections. Applicant's arguments appear to be on the grounds that:

- 1) Podszun's teaching of temperature is medically unsuitable or impossible in an intra-oral environment.
- 2) Lee's teachings do not support using UV curing.

The Applicant's arguments are addressed as follows:

- 1) The arguments of counsel cannot take the place of evidence in the record.
- 1 and 2) Moreover, Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 33, and 37 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick Butler whose telephone number is (571) 272-

8517. The examiner can normally be reached on Mo.-Th. 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Johnson can be reached on (571) 272-1176. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PB
Patrick Butler
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 1732

CR
CHRISTINA JOHNSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
2/20/07